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"Lydia L. Lewis" <lydleel@juno.com> on 10/04/2001 10:09:10 PM

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To: ymp_sr@ymp.gov
cc: agweg@juno.com, lydleel@juno.com

Subject: Yucca Mountain Project

Part of Records Package / Supplement / Correction

TO: Carol Hanlon, US DOE, Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
(MS #025)

Dear Ms. Hanlon:

I wish to express my STRONG opposition to the plan to store spent nuclear fuel in Yucca Mountain in Nevada. From what I have heard and read, this site is not geologically stable and is not even complete, yet if this plan is approved, spent nuclear fuel will soon start rolling through St. Louis at the rate of one every other day. Any school child knows that if one drives enough miles it is almost inevitable that one will have an accident. I think 183 shipments a year for 25-30 years provides ample opportunity for the inevitable to happen. I do not want it to happen in my community, or, to be frank, in any community in this country.

Accidents are one thing, but from recent events it is painfully obvious that no one has adequately assessed the danger from terrorists. Had the WTC terrorists chosen to crash those planes into any one of the scores of operating nuclear power plants half the people in this country could be either dead or exposed to high levels of radiation. Several successful strikes could have made this country uninhabitable for millenia.

Nuclear power has never been safe, is not now safe, and shows no likelihood of ever becoming safe. It is not safe for the communities in which the power plants reside and it is even less safe for the employees who work in it. I urge you to investigate the life expectancy of nuclear industry workers and the rates of birth defects in their children. I would be willing to wager the figures are appalling. The industry's care for its employees has not significantly improved since Karen Silkwood's day.

A former co-worker who was originally from the Harrisburg, PA area told me that during the Three Mile Island crisis she kept part of her wardrobe and food and other essentials in her car since she needed to be ready at all times to evacuate. Has everyone forgotten Three Mile Island? And how could anyone have forgotten Chernobyl? No one lives there anymore and people as far away as Sweden were contaminated.

I have discussed this with a chemist I know and he assures me there is NO good solution for this problem. His best suggestion, though, is to:

1. Stop generating electricity with nuclear power. It is not a cheap fuel if all the costs of generating and clean-up are included. It is not safe now and is never likely to be.
2. Do not approve the Yucca Mountain site. It is not stable and it is not large enough to hold all the spent fuel rods now being stored across the country, much less those generated in the future.

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3. Do NOT ship spent fuel across the country. Store the waste in place in present power plants under the safest conditions that can be devised. Since these sites are already contaminated, it will do no further harm and will alleviate the risk of shipment.

Please do NOT succumb to the nuclear industry's propaganda about economy and safety. This is and always has been a BAD idea. Stop the Yucca Mountain project, stop the shipment of nuclear fuel and stop nuclear power.

Sincerely,

LYDIA L. LEWIS
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